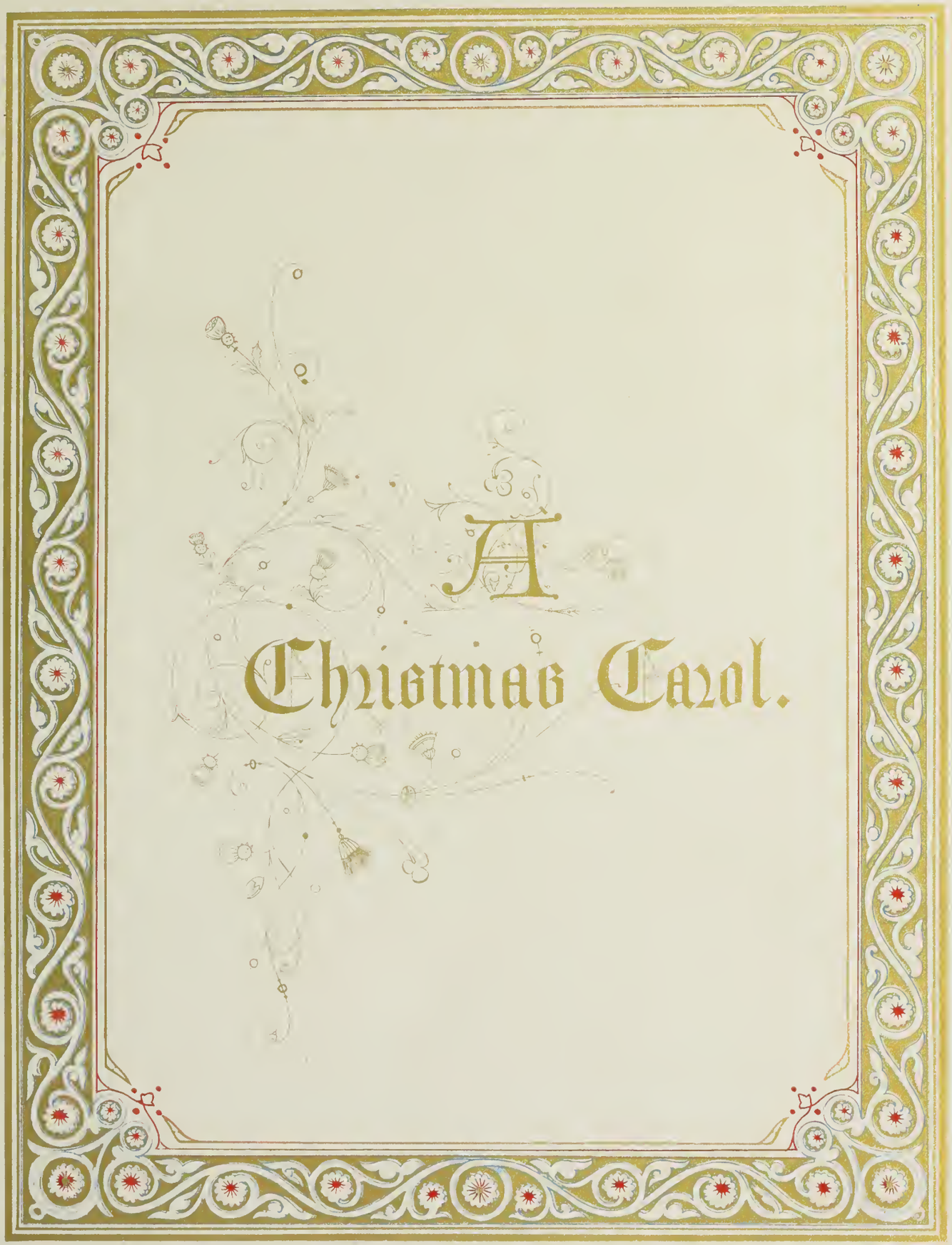




A CHRISTMAS CAROL






A
Christmas Carol.


A
CHRISTMAS
CAROL
London:
Macmillan & Co.


Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

https://archive.org/details/christmascarol00cris



N presenting to the public the following Christmas Offering a few introductory words are requisite in explanation of what has been attempted.

The subjects of the Illuminated Pages are in each case original; the designs for the Borders have been taken more or less from MSS. of the 14th and 15th centuries.

In specifying the authorities to which recourse has been had for the Borders, it should be understood that the latter are adaptions rather than copies; difficulties of various kinds, such as the comparative sizes of the pages in this book and the originals consulted, having rendered any other course impracticable.

A. Trevor Crispin.

Contents of this Book

i	Title page
ii	Annunciation of our lady
iii	The song of the Blessed Virgin Mary
iii	A legend of Christmas eve
v	The Angels appearing to the shepherds
vi	The Nativity of our lord
vii	The adoration of the shepherds
viii	A carol
ix	The presentation of Christ in the temple
x	The song of Symeon
xi	The adoration of the Magi
xii	The flight into Egypt

Printed in Colours by

R. CLAY, SONS & TAYLOR.

Illuminated by

W. & H. A. Trevor Crispin.

THE Border of the Title-page (No. 1) is taken from Abbot Littlington's Missal, Westminster Abbey Library (title-pages however, we must parenthetically admit, were unknown in the days of illuminated MSS.).

The other Borders are derived as follows:

For the Annunciation (No. 2). Copy of the Gospels, 13th Cent. British Museum (Addl. MSS. 17,341).

For the Magnificat (No. 3). Hours of the Blessed Virgin, 15th Cent. British Museum (Harl. 2,900).

For the Legend of Christmas Eve (No. 4). Bedford Missal, British Museum (Addl. MSS. 18,850).

For the Angels appearing to the Shepherds (No. 5). Italian MS. 14th and 15th Cent. In the possession of Captain Ottley.

For the Nativity (No. 6). Abbot Littlington's Missal.

For the Adoration of the Shepherds (No. 7). Italian MS. 14th and 15th Cent. In the possession of Captain Ottley.

For the Carol (No. 8). Border and Vignette from a French MS. in the possession of C. Butler, Esq.

For the Presentation in the Temple (No. 9). Hours of the B. V. 15th Cent. British Museum (Harl. 2,900).

For the Song of Simeon (No. 10). Arundel Psalter, British Museum (MS. 83).

For the Adoration of the Magi (No. 11). Bedford Missal British Museum (Addl. MSS. 18,850).

For the Flight into Egypt (No. 12). French MS. 14th Century, in the possession of C. Butler, Esq.

In further elucidation of some of the subjects treated, it should be added that the left-hand border of the Annunciation (No. 2) is after an initial letter in a copy of the Gospels in the British Museum, and a vignette of the Visitation has been introduced instead of one in the MS.

The words of the Legend of Christmas Eve (No. 4) are borrowed from "The Postevangelion, or an Historical Account of the Birth of Christ," in the Apocryphal New Testament. It has been adopted as marking very appositely that moment when—in the striking language of the Book of Wisdom, chap. xviii. 14, 15—"While all things were in quiet silence, and that night was in the midst of her swift course, Thine Almighty Word leaped down from heaven out of Thy royal throne."

The words of the Carol (No. 8) are from the Sloane MSS. in the British Museum (2,593), and will be found, by any who may wish to consult the original, at pp. 27, 28. This reference is not unnecessary for those who are unacquainted with the book and the peculiar style of the MSS. It is only right to say that the reading of it as given in Sandy's "Christmas Tide, its History, Carols, &c." has been followed almost *literatim*.

The subject of No. 9, commonly called "The Presentation in the Temple," is not strictly speaking that incident itself, but one with which it is often confounded, viz. the "Prophecy of Simeon" (see Mrs. Jameson's Legends of the Madonna).

In the Order of Church Festivals the Epiphany precedes the Purification, but chronologically, there can be little doubt that the visit of the Magi, from the period occupied by their journey, must have succeeded it in point of time. In accordance with this view the occurrences have been transposed in the illustrations.


The
Birth of
Jesus Christ

Behold a Virgin shall
conceive and bear a Son





and shall call His Name
EMMANUEL



My soul doth magnify the lord
and my spirit hath rejoiced
in God my Saviour for
he hath regarded the low
estate of his handmaiden for behold
from henceforth all generations shall
call me blessed For
he that is mighty
hath done to me great things and holy is
His name And
his mercy is on
them that fear
him from gene
ration to generation
He hath shewed
strength with
his arm He hath
scattered the proud in the imagination
of their hearts
He hath put down
the mighty from their seats and exalted
them of low degree
He hath filled
the hungry with good things and the
rich
He hath sent empty away He
hath holpen
his servant Israel in
remembrance of
his mercy as He
spake to our fathers to
Abraham and
to his seed for ever

A legend of Christmas Eve

As Joseph was walking I looked up into the air and I saw the clouds astonished and the fowls of the air stopping in the midst of their flight And I looked down towards the earth and saw a table spread and working people sitting around it but their hands were upon the table and they did not move to eat They who had meat in their mouths did not eat They who lifted their hands up to their heads did not draw them back they who lifted them up to their mouths did not put anything in But all their faces were fixed upwards And I beheld the sheep dispersed and yet the sheep stood still And the shepherd lifted up his hand to smite them and his hand continued up And I looked unto a river and saw the kids with their mouths close to the water and touching it but they did not drink



Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people &c


LET ALL THE ANGELS
GLORIA



Unto you is born this day in
the city of David a Saviour
which is Christ the Lord



A Babe is born al
of a May In the
cavalcyoun of us To hem
we syngyn bothe nyght
and day Deus creator
omnitus

AT Bethleem that
blyssid pas The chyld of blysse
born he was Hym to serve Go geve us grace O lux
beata trinitas

Thez come thre kynges out of the est to worchepe
the kyng that is so fre With gold and myre
and frankincens A solis ortus cardine

The herdes herdyn an anngele cry A mervé
long then syngyn he Nwy arn ye so
sore agalt Jam ortus solis cardine

The anngele cowyn down with on cry A fayr
long then syngyn he Ju the worchepe of
that chylde Gloria tibi Domine



LORD now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word For mine eyes have seen thy salvation Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel




The KINGS of TARSIS & of the ISLES shall bring presents
The KINGS of ARABIA & SABA shall bring gifts
And KINGS shall come to the brightness of thy rising



Arise and take the young child and his mother and flee into Egypt

Special
F 6 0 3
.B 933

THE GETTY CENTER
LIBRARY

